AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A blow molded container, comprising:

a first layer of plastic suitable for blow molding; ~~and~~

a second layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said first layer, said second layer of plastic formed as a foam wherein the foam cells ~~are substantially filled with and~~ contain one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen[[.]] ;and

a threaded portion formed at an end of the container adapted to receive a cooperating closure.

2. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein the first layer of plastic comprises a plastic selected from the group consisting of polyesters, acrylonitrile acid esters, vinyl chlorides, polyolefins, polyamides, and derivatives, blends, and copolymers thereof.

3. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein the first layer of plastic comprises a polyester.

4. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein the first layer of plastic comprises polyethylene terephthalate.

5. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein the second layer of plastic comprises a plastic selected from the group consisting of polyesters, acrylonitrile acid esters, vinyl chlorides, polyolefins, polyamides, and derivatives, blends, and copolymers thereof.

6. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein the second layer of plastic comprises a polyester.

7. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein the second layer of plastic comprises polyethylene terephthalate.

8. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein the first and second layers of plastic are the same.

9. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein the first and second layers of plastic are different.

10. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein the foam cells contain a gas comprising a gas selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, argon, air, and blends and derivatives thereof.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The container according to Claim 1, further comprising a third layer of plastic contacting said second layer of plastic, said third layer of plastic formed as a non-foamed layer. ~~wherein the foam cells are substantially filled with a gas.~~

13. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 12, wherein the third layer of plastic comprises a plastic selected from the group consisting of polyesters, acrylonitrile acid esters, vinyl chlorides, polyolefins, polyamides, and derivatives, blends, and copolymers thereof

14. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 12, wherein the third layer of plastic comprises a polyester.

15. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 12, wherein the third layer of plastic comprises polyethylene terephthalate.

16. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 12, wherein the gas in the foam cells of the third layer of plastic comprises a gas selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, argon, air, and blends and derivatives thereof.

17. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 12, wherein the foam cells of the third layer of plastic are substantially filled with one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen.

18. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, further comprising a third layer of plastic contacting said ~~second~~ first layer of plastic.

19. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 18, wherein the third layer of plastic comprises a plastic selected from the group consisting of polyesters, acrylonitrile acid esters, vinyl chlorides, polyolefins, polyamides, and derivatives, blends, and copolymers thereof.

20. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to claim 18, wherein the third layer of plastic comprises a polyester.

21. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to claim 18, wherein the third layer of plastic comprises polyethylene terephthalate.

22. (Currently Amended) A multilayer preform for forming a blow molded container, comprising:

a first layer of plastic suitable for blow molding; ~~and~~

a second layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said first layer, said second layer of plastic formed as a foam wherein the foam cells ~~are substantially filled with and~~ contain one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen[[.]] ;and

a threaded portion formed at an end of the preform adapted to receive a cooperating closure.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A multilayer preform for forming a blow molded container, comprising:

a first layer of plastic suitable for blow molding;

a second layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said first layer, said second layer of plastic formed as a foam wherein the foam cells ~~are substantially filled with and~~ contain one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen;

a third layer of polyethylene terephthalate suitable for blow molding contacting said first layer of plastic[[.]] ;and

a threaded portion formed at an end of the preform adapted to receive a cooperating closure.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (New) A reheat stretch blow molded container, comprising:

a first layer of plastic suitable for blow molding; ~~and~~

a second layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said first layer, said second layer of plastic formed as a foam wherein the foam cells ~~are substantially filled with and~~ contain one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen[[.]] ;and

a threaded portion formed at an end of the container adapted to receive a cooperating closure.

27. (New) A multilayer preform for forming a blow molded container, comprising:

a first layer of plastic; and

a second layer of foamed plastic contacting said first layer, said first layer and said second layer formed by a single melt of plastic to produce a multi-layered preform for blow molding, wherein foam cells formed in said second layer contain a fluid.

28. (New) The preform of Claim 27, further comprising a threaded portion formed at an end of the container adapted to receive a cooperating closure.

29. (New) The preform of Claim 27, wherein said first layer and said second layer comprise a plastic selected from the group consisting of polyesters, acrylonitrile acid esters, vinyl chlorides, polyolefins, polyamides, and derivatives, blends, and copolymers thereof.

30. (New) The preform of Claim 27, wherein said first layer and said second layer comprise polyethylene terephthalate.

31. (New) The preform of Claim 30, wherein said first layer and said second layer consist of polyethylene terephthalate.

32. (New) The preform of Claim 27, wherein the blowing agent is one of a chlorofluorocarbon, a hydrochlorofluorocarbon, and an alkane.

33. (New) The preform of Claim 27, wherein the fluid is a gas comprising a gas selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, argon, air, and blends and derivatives thereof.

34. (New) The preform of Claim 32, wherein the fluid is nitrogen.

35. (New) The preform of Claim 32, wherein the fluid is carbon dioxide.

36. (New) The preform of Claim 27, further comprising a third layer of plastic contacting said second layer of plastic, said third layer of plastic formed as a non-foamed layer.

37. (New) The preform of Claim 35, wherein said third layer is formed by the injection of the blowing agent into a single melt of plastic.

38. (New) A multilayer preform for forming a blow molded container, comprising:

a first layer of plastic; and

a second layer of foamed plastic contacting said first layer, said first layer and said second layer formed by injection of a fluid in a supercritical state into a single melt of plastic to produce a multi-layered preform for blow molding, wherein foam cells formed in said second layer contain the fluid.

39. (New) The preform of Claim 38, further comprising a threaded portion formed at an end of the container adapted to receive a cooperating closure.

40. (New) The preform of Claim 38, wherein said first layer and said second layer comprise a plastic selected from the group consisting of polyesters, acrylonitrile acid esters, vinyl chlorides, polyolefins, polyamides, and derivatives, blends, and copolymers thereof.

41. (New) The preform of Claim 38, wherein said first layer and said second layer comprise polyethylene terephthalate.

42. (New) The preform of Claim 38, wherein the fluid is a gas comprising a gas selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, argon, air, and blends and derivatives thereof.

43. (New) The preform of Claim 38, further comprising a third layer of plastic contacting said second layer of plastic, said third layer of plastic formed as a non-foamed layer.

44. (New) The preform of Claim 38, wherein said first layer and said second layer are formed by a single melt of plastic.